WASHINGTON, D.C. — Congressman Steve King announced that a federal appropriation for the Little Sioux Watershed Project was included in H.R. 2997, the Agriculture, Rural Development, Food and Drug Administration, and Related Agencies Appropriations Act. A final House-Senate Conference Report passed the House and Senate earlier this month. The bill must now be signed into law by the President.

King worked with Iowa Senators Chuck Grassley and Tom Harkin to secure $1.146 million to continue the implementation of the Little Sioux Flood Prevention Project. The Little Sioux Project was authorized in 1936. Federal funds have been made available to the Department of Agriculture since late 1945 to assist farmers and other interested parties in planning and applying watershed measures to minimize flood damage.

"This project reduces flood damage, gully erosion damage and stream channel degradation and improves water quality in western Iowa," said King.
"Iowa farmers and communities can count on the continued productivity of our soil and the safety of our water because of projects like the Little Sioux Watershed Project."

In requesting funding for this project, Congressman King complied with all earmark transparency standards, including a Congressional Record submission that includes the name of the request and a description of how the funds will be spent. The original House version of H.R. 2997, that passed the House on July 9, 2009, included $1.146 million for this project. While funding for this project was not included in the Senate version of this bill, the $1.146 million included in the House version was maintained when delegates from the House and Senate went to conference to work out a final version of the bill.

H.R. 3183 originally passed the House on July 9, and Congressman King

opposed the legislation due to its total cost. Without justification, the bill increased funding by 11.9%, despite the $6.1 billion the agencies funded by this bill already received this year through the stimulus bill.